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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**H.R. 4167 Will “Handcuff” the State’s
Abilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks**
Support the Waxman Amendment

March 8, 2006

Dear Colleague:

As the attached fact sheet discusses, H.R. 4167 is an assault on the ability of the states to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack.

Although state and local officials have repeatedly raised concerns about this important issue, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has refused to hold a single hearing on this issue. The Food and Drug Administration has refused to answer any questions about it.

Amazingly, this legislation provides that where there is a federal enforcement action underway, states may not act to address an imminent hazard. It is remarkable that in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the House is prepared to pass legislation that will so stunningly inhibit state authority and rely solely on federal response abilities.

I will be offering an amendment during today’s debate that will allow state’s to retain authority to address terrorism concerns, when a state’s Governor or legislature certifies it is necessary. All wisdom does not reside in Washington, DC, and Congress should not pretend it does.

I hope you will consider supporting my amendment. While it will not address every problem in this legislation, it will at least help maintain a strong anti-terrorism approach.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress